

--FIG. 4,

6 Once the patient is positioned within
E the gap, the patient bed 33 and the spaced-apart
C2 E structures 32 are substantially immobilized, as
E is conventional, to prevent movement with
E respect to the lower magnet pole during magnetic
E resonance imaging. For example, a locking pin
E can be passed through the rails or rollers 32
E and into the base portion 25.--

In the Claims:

Please add new **claim 18** which further limits original **claim 14** by deleting "support" and inserting --transport-- on **line 9** (of original **claim 14**), deleting "therefrom and" and inserting --therefrom, and-- on **line 12** (of original **claim 14**), and adding the last two paragraphs:

sub D/S
18. In an MRI system including an NMR polarizing magnet having opposed upper and lower horizontal poles defining a MRI image volume within a gap between the poles that is open about at least three sides,
5 the improvement comprising:

C1
10 a movable patient transport having spaced-apart structures supporting a horizontal patient bed and depending therefrom, and defining an opening under the bed sized to pass said lower magnet pole therethrough while interjecting the patient bed into said gap so as to permit substantially adjacent patient access along a side of the patient while the patient is positioned within the MRI image volume,

15 said patient transport having a first position extended away from the NMR polarizing magnet, and at said first position the movable patient transport being enabled

to allow movement of the bed and the spaced-apart structures, and

20 said patient transport having a second position in the gap, and at said second position the spaced-apart structures of the transport bed straddling the lower magnet pole, the patient transport being constrained to prevent movement with respect to said lower magnet pole during an MRI imaging procedure.

Please add new **claim 19** which further limits original **claim 15** by inserting --, while said patient transport is in said second position-- after "structures" on **line 7** (of original **claim 15**):

19. A MRI system as in claim 18 wherein said movable patient transport comprises:

5 means for moving the patient bed in at least two dimensions with respect to said spaced-apart structures, while said patient transport is in said second position.

Please add new **claim 20** which further limits original **claim 16** by adding --, while said bed is positioned away from the NMR polarizing magnet-- after "bed" on **line 9** (of original **claim 16**) and adding a new paragraph --moving said bed and undercarriage above a floor towards said NMR polarizing magnet and into juxtaposition with an open gap of the C-shaped magnet; and,-- after "bed" on **line 9** (of original **claim 16**):

20. A method for positioning a patient for MRI using an NMR polarizing magnet with a C-shaped cross-section, said method comprising:

5 placing said patient on a movable bed having an
aperture in an undercarriage disposed below the bed, while
said bed is positioned away from the NMR polarizing
magnet;

10 moving said bed and undercarriage above a floor
towards said NMR polarizing magnet and into juxta-position
with an open gap of the C-shaped magnet; and,

15 moving said bed into said open gap while moving
said aperture therebelow over a lower pole face of the
magnet thus leaving unobstructed adjacent access to the
patient along an entire patient body side while the
patient is disposed within said open gap.

Please add new **claims 21** and **22** based on and
further limiting original **claims 14** and **16** as follows:

21. In an MRI system including an NMR
polarizing magnet having opposed upper and lower
horizontal poles defining an MRI image volume within a gap
between the poles that is open on at least three sides,
5 the improvement comprising:

a movable patient transport having spaced-apart
structures supporting a horizontal patient bed from which
the spaced-apart structures depend,

10 the movable patient support defining an open
structure under the bed sized to straddle and pass said
lower pole therethrough while moving the patient bed into
an imaging position in the gap, thereby permitting
substantially adjacent patient access along a side of the
patient while the patient transport is positioned in the
15 imaging position and the patient is positioned within the
MRI image volume, and